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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 20, 2013, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2013

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Help us this day to draw closer to You so that, with Your Spirit and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. Help them to think clearly, speak confidently, and act courageously in the belief that all noble service is based upon patience, truth, and love.

May these decisive days through which we are living make them genuine enough to maintain their integrity, great enough to be humble, and good enough to keep their faith, always regarding public office as a sacred trust. Give them the wisdom and the courage to fail not their fellow citizens nor You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNERNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE CALL FOR A BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION

(Mr. COFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, in a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee on April 25, I asked the Secretary of the Army, John McHugh, if he could give me an idea of what the excess capacity is for Army installations in the United States.

The Secretary informed me that the last study was done in 2004, and it found that the excess capacity was at 20 percent. He stated that the number would probably be much higher today but that he had no way of knowing since Congress had prohibited him from using any funds to study the issue further.

Mr. Speaker, I will move an amendment when the National Defense Authorization Act comes to the House floor that will direct the Secretary of Defense to determine what the current excess capacity is so that we will know the potential savings from doing another Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

I support the administration and its call for another Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 2015. Every dollar wasted in the Defense budget is a dollar that is not spent on defending our Nation.

I ask that my colleagues in the House support my amendment when it comes to the floor.

ABUSE OF POWER BY THE IRS

(Mr. BARROW of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the folks in my district in Georgia who are witnessing a series of serious missteps in the Federal Government, giving rise to an unprecedented level of distrust in government.

This week, we learned that the Internal Revenue Service used inappropriate criteria to delay or stall conservative organizations applying for tax-exempt status. This is a totally unacceptable abuse of the power the IRS has in our government, and calls into question any future decisions made by that agency.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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